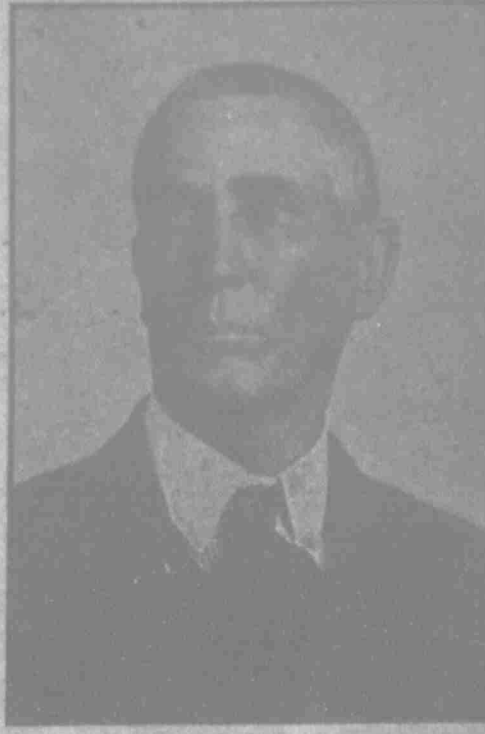


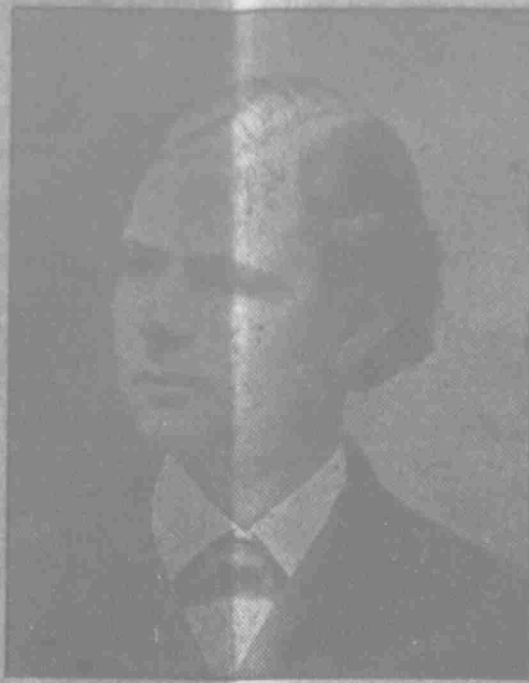
Some Members of the Commission.



M. S. Knight.



Syd. L. Carter.



Park M. Trammell.



R. Pope Reese.



Fred C. Cone.

REPORT DIDN'T GO IN THE HOUSE.

(Continued from First Page.)

expressed the opinion that the Speaker of the House was possessed of too much intelligence to be swayed by the suggestion that the action of the Senate and the concurrent action of the House was in any sense a reflection on him. Mr. Knight of Columbia, Mr. Long and others urged concurrence, on the ground that the session was drawing to a close and the time was too precious to delay. If the House refused to concur it would necessitate the return of the bill to the Senate, and would in all probability terminate the investigation.

Mr. Wells objected to a concurrence, whereupon Mr. Ogilvie asked him if he wanted the investigation to continue. "I do," said Mr. Wells.

"Then vote for concurrence," responded Mr. Ogilvie.

The House finally concurred in all the amendments, and then the discussion turned on the report of the committee. This report was signed by all the committeemen except Representatives Carter and Reese. The report was read. It contained nothing as to the findings of the committee. It merely recited the manner in which the committee had proceeded under the House resolution, stating that the investigation had been concluded through the Broward and Jennings administrations, and because of lack of time the work had been terminated there. Along with the report, as a part of it, was submitted the compilation of figures made by the expert accountants, and the printed reports of the transactions of the actions of the Internal Improvement Trustees.

Mr. Carter asked permission to give his reasons for refusing to sign the report. He said he had been given no opportunity as a member of the committee to know what was in the report. As a member of the House of Representatives he had been in his seat until 1 o'clock the previous night, and had responded to a call of the committee chairman after that hour to go over the report. The committee met, but the hour was so late that further action was deferred until morning. The chairman of the committee (Mr. Buckman) had said he would be in the Senate Judiciary room at 8 o'clock in the morning to meet the committeemen. Mr. Carter said he was at the appointed place at the appointed time, but the door was locked, and although he called subsequently, the door was still locked, and it was only shortly before noon that the report was brought to him, with the request to sign. He refused to do it, because he didn't know what the report contained and did not have the time to examine it.

He said he would not append his name to a report involving the integrity of high State officials without knowing all that the report contained. Mr. Carter said furthermore, that he did not regard the report as a committee report. The data which had been submitted was the report of expert accountants who had been employed by the committee, and was only the data upon which report should be made up. Furthermore, he said that the report as submitted did not contain all the proceedings of the committee; part of it, he said, had been withheld. Certain witnesses had been examined, and stenographic reports had been taken of these examinations, and these did not appear as a part of the report. "Where is that testimony—where is it?" said the Representative. "Why keep it back? I am placed in an exceedingly embarrassing position. I hate to disagree with the other members of the committee, but we don't want simply a report of these New York accountants; where is the rest of the report? Where has it gone? If you take this report you take a partial report, which is manifestly unfair and unjust. Get it all together before you send it here, and every member of this House should be thoroughly acquainted with the contents of it before he is called upon to vote on it."

Mr. Reese, in giving his explanation for not signing the report, made practically the same statement as that given by Mr. Carter. A motion had been made by Mr. MacWilliams to spread the report and the exhibits on the journal. This Mr. Reese opposed on the ground that it was a partial report and would be unjust and misleading.

Mr. Parkinson said that the investigation had been "a perfect farce." In the beginning, he said, he was heartily in favor of the investigation, and voted for it; he believed there was a demand for it. "I knew nothing about the matter in the beginning and now, since the committee has made its report I know nothing more than I did at first. To be perfectly frank, we did not start out right. This investigation is open to all the criticism that has been aimed at the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

It looks like to me that the investigation has been conducted in the dark and in an underhand way. I have seen two of the members of that committee, in whom I have the most confidence, say that they as members of the committee, know nothing about the findings of the committee, and are opposed to spreading this report

on the Journal without knowing what is in it. And it should not be done until this investigation is completed."

Roll call was taken on the motion to spread the report on the Journal with the exhibits and also on the concurrence in the Senate amendments as to the election of members. The vote on concurrence is given as indicating the attitude of the members in regard to the several questions that were voted on in this connection, for the opposition was identical on them.

For concurrence were:

Messrs. Avant, Baggett, Calkins, Carter, Cobb, Crawford, Decker, Duke, DuPont, Durrance, Farris, Geiger, Harvell, Johnson, Kilgore, Kirkland, Knight (Columbia), Lassiter, Long, McCutcheon, Mathews, Ogilvie, Parkinson, Paul, Peaden, Pettigrew, Reese, Register, Richbourg, Taylor, Willis (Gadsden), Willis (Levy), Williams, Wilson (Hernando), Wilson (Lee)—35. The Speaker was excused from voting.

Against—Bradshaw, Clarke, Donegan, Dorman, Hartsfield, Knight (Citrus), McKenzie, MacWilliams, McClellan, Malone, Melton, Milliner, Morrison, Peeples, Rowe, Russell, Wartmann and Wells—18.

The election of the House members of the commission resulted in the choice of Representatives Carter, Reese, Knight (Columbia), and Griggs. Mr. Griggs refused to serve and several nominations were made before the needed member would accept. Mr. Willis of Gadsden nominated Mr. Farris; Mr. Farris declined and nominated Mr. Wartmann; Mr. Wartmann declined. Mr. Wells nominated Mr. Rowe; Mr. Rowe declined. Mr. Kilgore nominated Mr. Mathews, who accepted, saying that he would attempt to discharge his duty fearlessly.

At 9:20 the committee from the Senate waited on the House to inform the House that the Senate was ready to adjourn. The Speaker appointed a committee composed of Representatives MacWilliams, Wartmann and Parkinson to wait upon the Senate with the message that the House was also ready to put work aside.

A committee was appointed to wait upon the Governor with a similar message, composed of Representatives Wells, Mathews and Reese. In a few minutes these committees returned with the report that their work was done, and the Speaker's gavel fell for the last time on the session of 1907.

MEMBERSHIP OF LEGISLATURE

INVESTIGATING COMMISSION.

Membership of the Joint Commission to investigate the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund is composed of Senators Cone, Leggett and Trammell and Representatives Reese, Knight, Mathews of Marion, and Carter.

In the Senate those first chosen were Senators Cone, Buckman and West (1st.)

Mr. Buckman declined to serve, and in his place Mr. Humphries was elected by acclamation.

Last night after the recess both Senators West and Humphries tendered their resignations, and some difficulty occurred in filling the vacancies, a number of Senators declining on account of business and other reasons, but the full membership was finally completed by Senators Trammell and Leggett consenting to serve.

Mr. Griggs was elected by the House, but resigned, and the vacancy was filled by the election of Mr. Mathews of Marion.

This commission, which was created yesterday by the passage in the Senate of the amended House bill, takes up the investigation work of the Joint Investigating Committee, of which Senator Buckman was chairman, and Senators West and Humphries and Representatives Reese, Carter, Griggs and Watson were members.

The bill provides for the holding of open sessions by the commission, and that a complete investigation of the fund be made from its creation in 1855.

PAIR BILLS PASSED.

Vigorously Senator Crane led the fight for the appropriation for the Tampa fair, and he won by the narrow margin of one vote.

The vote was 17 yeas to 15 nays.

Previous to the passage of the bill a hot temperance speech was made by Senator Humphries in support of his amendment that liquor and gambling be barred from the fair grounds.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 12 yeas to 14 nays. The appropriation bill for the West Florida Fair at DeFuniak also passed.

Adv—Dr. Armstrong, who makes regular professional calls at Tallahassee, remains but one day and can be seen personally at the Bloorham Hotel from now on, the first Tuesday of each month. Granulated lids and weak eyes overcome and cross eyes straightened without the use of the knife or operation.

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